

# *Study for the Village of Voluntown*

University of Connecticut  
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# ***Village of Voluntown***

November 2000

The overall objective of the study was to investigate ways in which to improve the landscape architecture of the village. The process involved assessing the positive aspects of the village, from architecture to pavement, as well as assessing any negative characteristics. The study team was free to develop ideas with the goal to investigate as many solutions as possible. The proposals were not tied to any budget restrictions so that ideas were not limited. Several parts of the recommendations can be started and adjusted according to available funding.

## **Acknowledgments**

We very much appreciate the support and cooperation of the Voluntown Economic Development Committee and specifically, Chair Jack Wesa, Joan Bronson, Dwayne Davis, Joe Grenier, Flo Harmon, Maryanne Niemenen, John Olsen and Len Stavrou.

## **UConn Team**

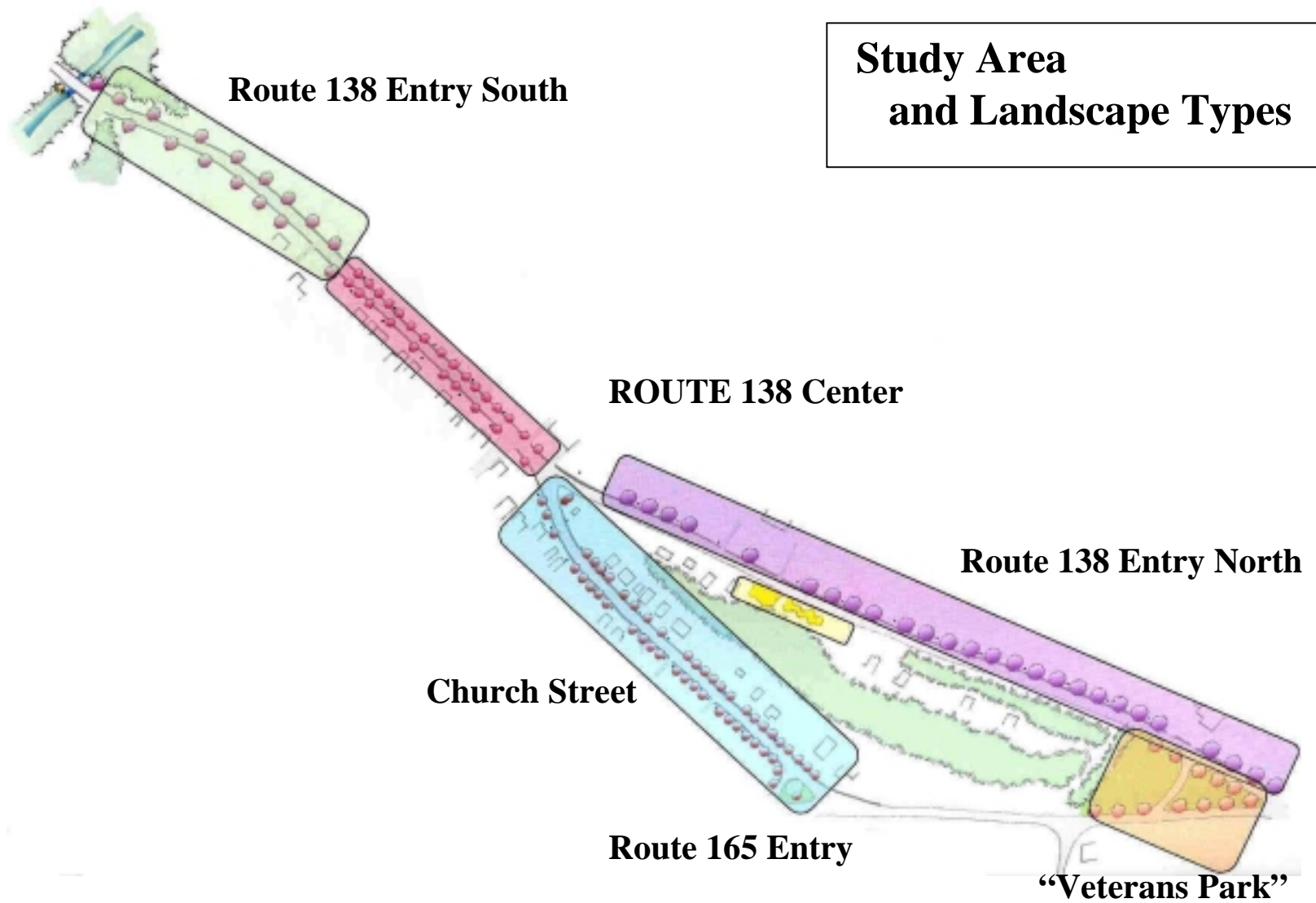
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Frank Parisi  
Robert Weirath

*Village of Voluntown*

**Study Area  
and Landscape Types**



## *Village of Voluntown*

### *Basic Recommendations*

- Identify positive assets in the village and reduce the negative aspects
- Develop a village design "vocabulary"
  - Architectural treatments (encourage the use consistent building materials reflecting back to the older and historic homes details and building scale)
  - Landscape details – adopt details specifically for the village
    - Curbs, walks, walls, lamps, benches, posts, plantings
- Provide a pedestrian atmosphere in scale and safety
- Improve the streetscape of Church Street
- Define roadway edges and driveway entrances
  - New curbing
  - Walls in appropriate places
- Village entryways should be marked by appropriate village signs
  - At Rts. 138 & 165, Church Street & Rt. 165, south entry of Rt. 138
- Replant street trees on both sides of Rt. 138 and on the south side of Church Street
- Infill buildings on Church Street primarily
  - Consider increasing the number of shops on the street
- Consider places in the village for community events
  - Fairs, farmer's market, community gardens
- Consider a public meeting space next to the Post Office
- Adopt specific architectural and landscape architectural guidelines for the village

# *Village of Voluntown*

## Observations and suggestions:

### *Positive aspects regarding village area*

Current lack of sprawl in town  
Village is a prominent feature  
    A distinct "node"-- an identifiable place in town  
    No competing village or strip in town  
    Forests dominate outside village  
    Village is a major crossroad  
Many similarly styled houses  
    Scale (relatively small size)  
    Shape (pitched roofs, dormers)  
    Building Materials (clapboards primarily)  
    Basic color - white  
    Pattern along most of the roads is consistent  
Churches help mark the village and are focal points  
Village is a discrete and small size

### *Negative aspects regarding village area*

Several positive aspects are altered or hidden  
Reduced or damaged "sense of place" - poor imagery exists  
No central meeting place or place of identity  
High speed roads degrade the largely residential character  
Some "seedy" appearing areas, buildings or grounds  
Basic architectural building types have been greatly altered  
    Basic forms altered  
    Original siding type removed or covered  
Walks non-existent on East side of Rt. 138 and walks are discontinuous  
Landscapes between building and street poorly defined and maintained  
Pedestrian comfort and safety degraded  
Overhead wires and poles detract from landscape  
New construction disregards basic character of village  
Parking uncontrolled, poorly defined  
Use of inappropriate materials - Chain link, concrete, bituminous curbs  
Street trees missing from much of Rt. 138 and Church Street



*Village of Voluntown*



**Positive Images**

*Landscape Architecture Program*



*University of Connecticut November 2000*

## *Village of Voluntown*



**Details**



**Imagery**



**Definition of edges**

## **Negative Images**



## *Village of Voluntown*



## **Starr Street, New London Examples**

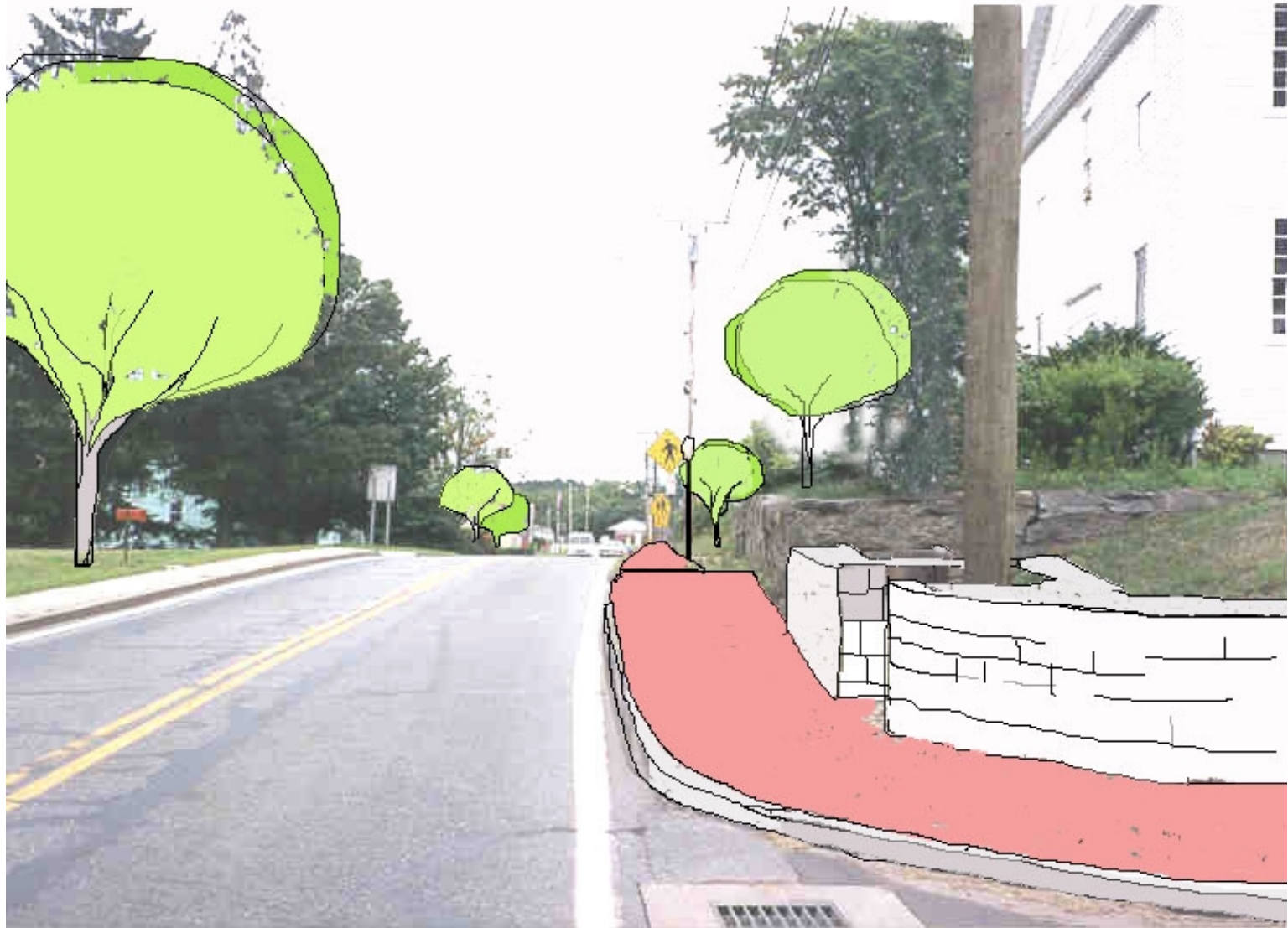


## *Village of Voluntown*



### *Rt. 138 Streetscape*

*Village of Voluntown*



*Rt. 138 Streetscape*



## *Village of Voluntown*



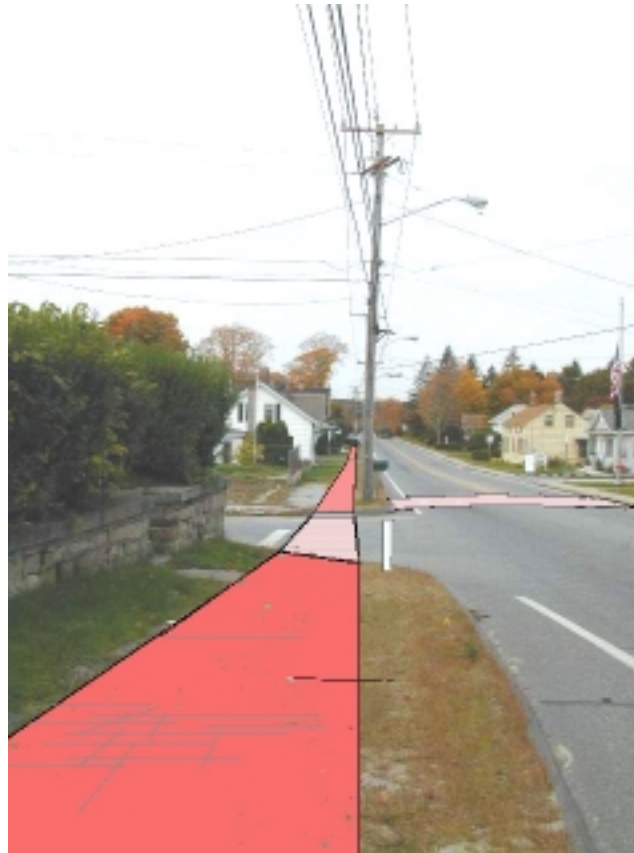
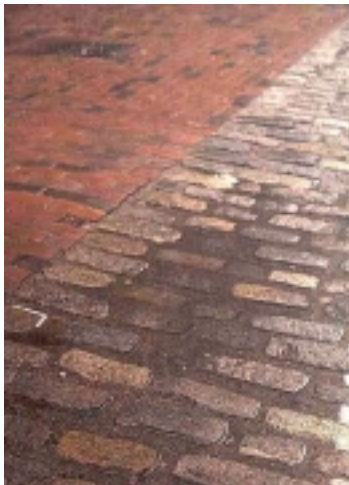
### *Rt. 138 Streetscape*

*Village of Voluntown*



*Rt. 138 Streetscape*

## *Village of Voluntown*

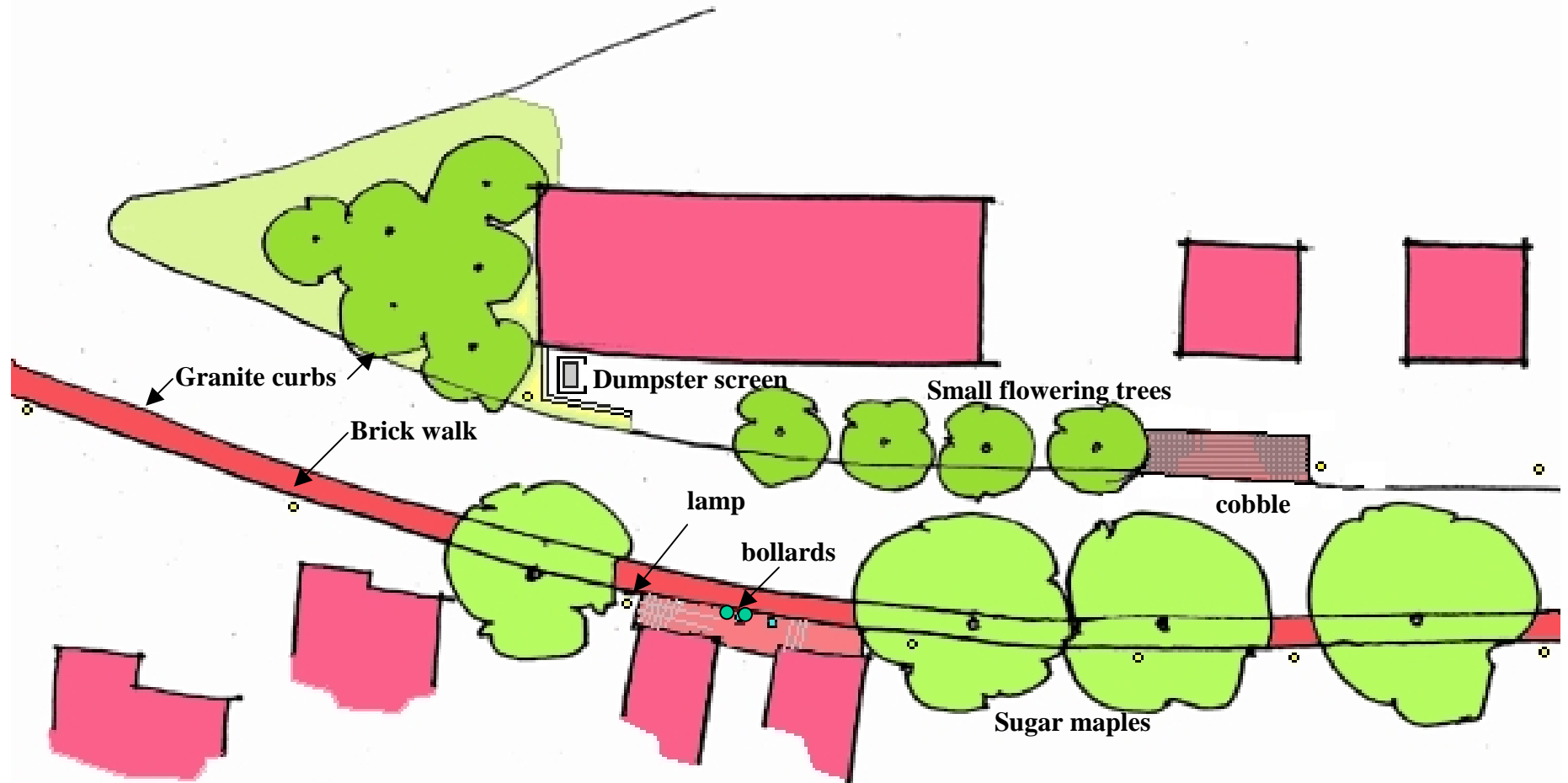


**Main Street - east side**



## *Suggested Walk and Cross Walk*

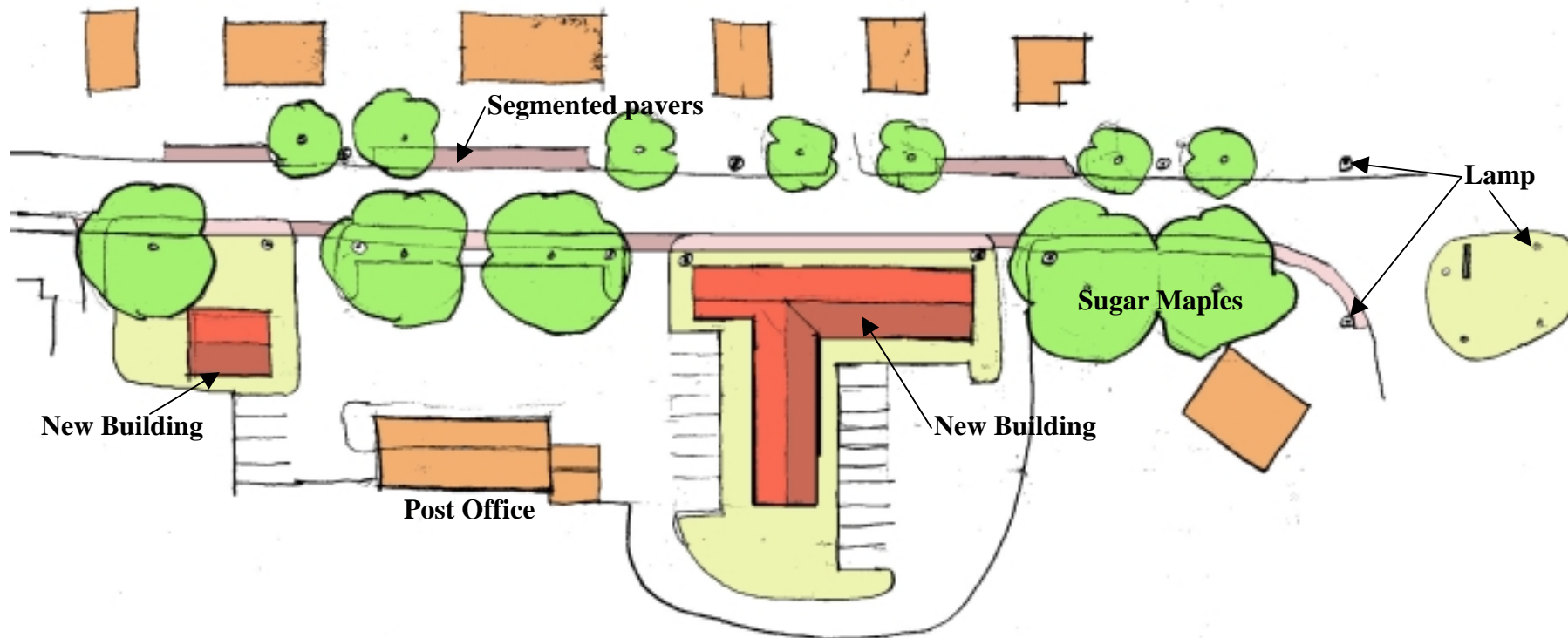
## *Village of Voluntown*



### *Church Street Streetscape Proposal*



## *Village of Voluntown*



## *Church Street Streetscape Proposal*

## *Village of Voluntown*



## *Church Street Proposal*

## *Village of Voluntown*

**Driveways and walks**



**Bollards**



**Brick walk and granite curb**

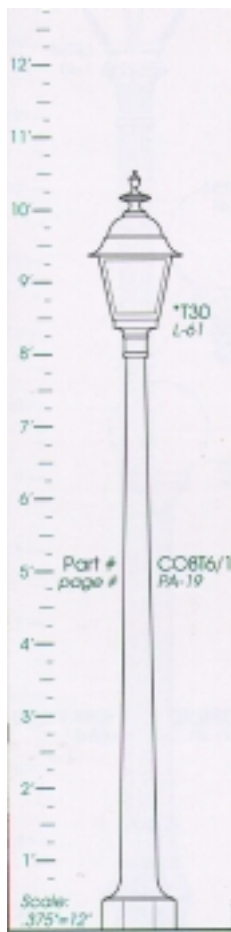


**Walls**

***Suggested Details***



## *Village of Voluntown*



## *Street Lamps*

***Village of Voluntown***



**Crabapples - Under wires**



**Scarlet Oak**



**Sugar Maple**

**Major Street Trees -----**

***Suggested Trees***